

**(12) PATENT APPLICATION**  
**(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE**

**(11) Application No. AU 200195225 A1**

**(54) Title**  
**Control of gene expression**

**(51)<sup>7</sup> International Patent Classification(s)**  
**C12N 015/11**

**(21) Application No: 200195225**

**(22) Application Date: 2001.11.30**

**(43) Publication Date : 2002.01.31**

**(43) Publication Journal Date : 2002.01.31**

**(62) Divisional of:**  
**199929163**

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**ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates generally to a method of modifying gene expression and to synthetic genes for modifying endogenous gene expression in a cell, tissue or organ of a transgenic organism, in particular a transgenic plant. More particularly, 5 the present invention utilises recombinant DNA technology to post-transcriptionally modify or modulate the expression of a target gene in a cell, tissue, organ or whole organism, thereby producing novel phenotypes. Novel synthetic genes and genetic constructs which are capable of repressing delaying or otherwise reducing the expression of an endogenous gene or a target gene in an organism when 10 introduced thereto are also provided.

